

Application No. 10/759,367
Amendment dated February 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 3, 2006

Docket No.: S234-0172PUS1

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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

It is noted that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 and 10 have been amended to correct certain minor grammatical errors and have not been amended in response to any statutory requirement set forth by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Okamura, Japanese document 2002-237873. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Okamura in view of Uchida, U.S. Patent 4, 802,207. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In independent claim 1 of the present invention, when the button for triggering on/off-hook function is pressed, *a temporarily broken circuit is caused* between the audio-signal input end of the connecting device and the audio receiving/ transmitting device. The broken circuit then *causes the detecting-signal value to be higher than a threshold value*, thereby triggering the on/off-hook function of the communication apparatus. This is clearly shown in Fig. 2 and described in the accompanying portion of the specification.

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Okamura, however, does not teach a temporarily broken circuit and a detecting-signal value higher than a threshold value.

Okamura provides a mobile phone 1 (see Figs. 1 and 3) capable of being connected with a headset 20 (see Fig. 3). A remote control 23 of the headset 20 provides an on/off-hook button 28 and a play/stop button 26. As described in Okamura, if the button 28 is depressed, the mobile phone 1 *temporarily stops reproducing music* and transmits the voice signal of a certain caller to earphones 25 (see paragraph [0036]). If the call has been finished and the button 28 is again depressed, mobile phone 1 again accepts the depressing operation of the button 26 (see paragraph [0039]).

It can be seen that the function of the on/off-hook button 28 in Okamura differs from that of the button of the present application. The on/off-hook button 28 in Okamura is used for temporarily stopping reproduction of music. The on/off-hook button 28 in Okamura does not cause a temporarily broken circuit and a detecting-signal value higher than a threshold value. Furthermore, "stopping reproducing music" is simply not equivalent to "causing a temporarily broken circuit".

The secondary reference to Uchida fails to overcome the above-noted deficiencies.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art utilized by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest the circuit of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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